

and I?  
well ....

meanwhile, the 3 or 4 others with us  
at that reading have vanished

which seems to show that to last you  
have to choose enduring subject  
matter  
and/or drink very much wine

or maybe better yet, like she taught  
me, not to go to bed with any body  
around because there's  
nothing else to do.

#### THE FAMOUS WRITER

when I was a mailman  
one of my routes was a special route:  
a famous writer lived in one of those  
houses,  
I recognized his name on the letters,  
he was a famous writer but not a very  
good one, well, maybe a fairly good  
one.  
but I never saw him  
until one morning when I was  
very hungover  
I walked up to his house  
and he was outside  
he was standing in an old bathrobe,  
he needed a shave and he looked ill  
about 3 years from death  
but he had this good looking woman  
standing there with him  
she was much younger than he  
the sun shining through her full hair  
and her thin dress,  
I handed him his mail over the gate and  
said, "I've read your books,"  
but he didn't answer  
he just looked down at the letters  
and I said, "I'm a writer too ...."  
he still didn't answer,  
he turned and walked off  
and she looked at me  
with a face that said nothing,  
then turned and followed  
him.



I moved on down to the next house  
where halfway across the lawn  
a little toy bulldog  
came charging out  
growling  
whirling  
with his putrid little eyes  
seething  
I caught him under the belly with  
my left foot  
and flung him up against a  
picture window  
and then I felt somewhat better  
but not  
entirely, hardly  
so.

#### A LITTLE CAFE ON 6TH STREET IN PEDRO

went in about 1:30 p.m.  
ordered the turkey sandwich  
on wheat plus some  
decaf,  
opened the paper and  
waited:

two men to my left  
talking:  
"well, I wasn't going to  
say anything but I looked at  
your haircut and I saw  
something was  
wrong ...."

"yeah, I was watching her  
in the mirror and I thought,  
'hey, what's she doing?'"

"I noticed it right  
away ...

you should have said  
something ...."

they went on talking about  
the haircut and I went on  
reading.

the sandwich and decaf  
arrived with a side order  
of